



# U.S. EMBASSY PRAGUE AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES NEWSLETTER

Trziste 15, 118 01 Prague 1

October/November 2013

## New Deputy Chief of Mission

### **Steven Kashkett**

Steven Kashkett, a career diplomat in the Foreign Service at the Department of State, took up his duties as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Prague in September 2013. Prior to that, he served as senior advisor for foreign policy and diplomacy at the U.S. Special Operations Command since September 2012.

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## Greetings from ACS

As students return to class, and the leaves begin to change, I'd like to welcome everyone back to the Czech Republic after a beautiful, but far too short, summer.

Remember, you should have at least a year of validity left on your passport when applying for a new residency permit.

Please feel free to contact the Consular Section with any issues or concerns you may have.

Best regards,

Charles Jess  
Consul General

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## Recent Travel Alerts and Warnings

Travel Alerts (Short-Term) that pose a risk to U.S. citizens abroad:

- ♦ Guinea (09/10/2013)
- ♦ Hurricane Season (5/30/2013)

Travel Warnings (Long-Term) that pose a risk to U.S. citizens abroad:

- |                              |                                  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ♦ <u>Kenya</u> 09/27/2013    | ♦ <u>Afghanistan</u> 08/23/2013  |
| ♦ <u>Turkey</u> 09/06/2013   | ♦ <u>Egypt</u> 08/15/2013        |
| ♦ <u>Lebanon</u> 09/06/2013  | ♦ <u>Haiti</u> 08/13/2013        |
| ♦ <u>Pakistan</u> 09/06/2013 | ♦ <u>El Salvador</u> 08/09/2013  |
| ♦ <u>Iraq</u> 09/05/2013     | ♦ <u>Yemen</u> 08/06/2013        |
| ♦ <u>Algeria</u> 08/23/2013  | ♦ <u>Saudi Arabia</u> 07/25/2013 |





**Internet or Email scams:** If you feel you have been a victim of an Internet scam, please send all reports of Internet fraud directly to the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) - a partnership between the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C). IC3 was established to receive internet related criminal complaints and to research, develop, and refer complaints to federal, state, local, or international law enforcement if appropriate.

If you've been the victim of an internet financial scam, please click [here](#) for more info.

## **We're Moving!**

If you've been to the Embassy before, you've walked up the stairs and made a left to go to the American Citizens Services section of the Consular office. Starting soon **ALL** consular services, including American Citizen Services, Immigrant and Non-Immigrant Visa Services will be consolidated to the lower part of the Consular wing. This could have an effect on available appointment times for American Citizen services.

Please stayed tuned for more information!



### **Embassy Holiday Closures**

During the month of October, U.S. Embassy Prague will be closed on the following days in recognition of Czech and U.S. holidays:

**Monday, October 14, 2013 - Columbus Day (U.S. Holiday)**

**Monday, October 28, 2013 - Czechoslovak National Day (Czech Holiday)**

**Monday, November 11, 2013 - Veteran's Day (U.S. Holiday)**

**Thursday, November 28, 2013 -Thanksgiving (U.S. Holiday)**

## **U.S. Visas for Same-Sex Spouses: FAQ**

**Q: How does the Supreme Court's Windsor v. United States decision impact immigration law?**

**A:** The Supreme Court has found section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) unconstitutional. Effective immediately, U.S. embassies and consulates will adjudicate visa applications that are based on a same-sex marriage in the same way that we adjudicate applications for opposite gender spouses. This means that the same sex spouse of a visa applicant coming to the U.S. for any purpose – including work, study, international exchange or as a legal immigrant – will be eligible for a derivative visa. Likewise, stepchildren acquired through same sex marriages can also qualify as beneficiaries or for derivative status.

**Q: Do we have to live or intend to live in a state in which same sex marriage is legal in order to qualify for an immigrant or nonimmigrant visa?**

**A:** No. If your marriage is valid in the jurisdiction (U.S. state or foreign country) where it took place, it is valid for immigration purposes.

**Q: I am in a civil union or domestic partnership; will this be treated the same as a marriage?**

**A:** At this time, only a relationship legally considered to be a marriage in the jurisdiction where it took place establishes eligibility as a spouse for immigration purposes.

**Q: I am a U.S. citizen who is engaged to be married to a foreign national of the same sex. We cannot marry in my fiancé's country. What are our options? Can we apply for a fiancé K visa?**

**A:** You may file a Form I-129F and apply for a fiancé(e) (K) visa. As long as all other immigration requirements are met, a same-sex engagement may allow your fiancé to enter the United States for the purpose of marriage.

More information can be found on the [USCIS website](http://uscis.gov).

## **Need a criminal record check for your Czech visa or Živnostenský list?**

Documentation on criminal record checks are provided by the Embassy through an affidavit signed by the U.S. citizen and notarized at the Embassy by a Consular Officer. Under certain circumstances, this sworn statement affirming that you have no criminal history is accepted by the Czech Government. Please confirm this requirement with the appropriate Czech Government office related to your needs. The fee for this notarial service is \$50.00 USD.

Appointments for routine services such as non-emergency passports, Consular Reports of Birth Abroad, extra passport pages, and **notarial services** are available Monday through Friday between the hours of 0830 AM and 1130 AM. Appointments may be made online by visiting our reservation system at <https://evisaforms.state.gov/acs/default.asp?postcode=PRG&appcode=1>

Please visit our website for additional information: <http://prague.usembassy.gov>.



## Get the free Smart Traveler App!

The State Department's *Smart Traveler* app is now available for **free**:

--In the iTunes store at <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/smart-traveler/id442693988?mt=8>,

--From the Google Play Store at [http://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=gov.state.apps.smartravel&feature=search\\_result#?t=W10](http://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=gov.state.apps.smartravel&feature=search_result#?t=W10)

The app was first launched in June 2011. It is the official State Department application for U.S. travelers. The app invites you to see the world with easy access to frequently updated official country information, travel alerts, travel warnings, maps, U.S. embassy locations, and more.

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- ◆ “Know Before You Go” allows you to get travel warnings on that specific country or region, a map, safety & security information, and more.
- ◆ The "U.S. Relations Fact Sheet" gives you information on U.S. relations with that country.
- ◆ "U.S. Embassies/Consulates" is your one-stop shop for a complete list of all U.S. embassies & consulates overseas.
- ◆ Select “Smart Traveler Enrollment” from the bottom of the e-itineraries screen to enroll in this free program so that the State Department can better assist you in an emergency.

Stay Connected with  
U.S. Embassy Prague

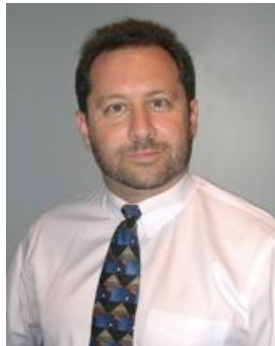


<http://www.facebook.com/USEmbassyPrague>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/usembassyprague>

<http://www.youtube.com/USEmbassyPrague>

<http://twitter.com/USEmbassyPrague>

**Introducing Steven Tashkett, Our New DCM** (continued from page 1)

Immediately prior to this assignment, he served for three years as the U.S. Consul General in Tijuana, Mexico, overseeing one of the largest U.S. consular posts in the world and managing U.S.-Mexico relations in areas including border infrastructure, narco-violence, trade promotion, energy, and immigration.

A member of the Senior Foreign Service, Mr. Kashkett has been a career diplomat since 1983. He served as U.S. Consul General in eastern Canada, based in Halifax, in 2001-2003. His previous overseas tours of duty, as a political officer, included the U.S. embassies in Beirut (Lebanon), Paris (France), and Port-au-Prince (Haiti), and the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem.

In Washington, Steven Kashkett served as acting Director of the Middle East Partnership Initiative and in the Near Eastern and European bureaus, respectively, as country officer in charge of Algeria and Ireland/Northern Ireland. From 1998-2001, Mr. Kashkett was Senior Advisor to the State Department's Coordinator for Counterterrorism. For four years, he was the elected head of the American Foreign Service Association, the professional body representing U.S. diplomats, at the Department of State.

Within the State Department, Steven Kashkett holds six Superior Honor Awards and the 1992 Director General's Award for Reporting.

Mr. Kashkett entered the Foreign Service after undergraduate and graduate studies in foreign relations and public administration at the University of Pennsylvania and Harvard University. He and his wife Wendy have five children between them. He speaks French and Spanish.

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**Contact American Citizen Services****ACSPRG@state.gov****<http://prague.usembassy.gov>****420-257-022-000****Open 8:30AM -12:00 PM Monday through Friday****By appointment only (except for emergencies)**

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